A Corporate Publication of Santee Cooper

POWERsource

FALL 2010

From the CEO

As I write this, Santee Cooper is finishing construction of our Berkeley County Green Power Generating Station, the sixth such station we have built that generates renewable energy from landfill methane gas. It's a great story, one that dates back almost a decade.

Santee Cooper was the first utility in South Carolina to generate and market Green Power for our customers. At the turn of the century, we were pursuing a rather novel concept, one that literally turns trash into treasure. I like to consider it full-circle generation.

Households generate garbage that is landfilled. As part of the natural decaying process, that garbage produces methane gas that creates an environmental risk 21 times more harmful than carbon dioxide, and so landfills must dispose of the methane. Santee Cooper can take that methane and use it much like natural gas to generate electricity, and we distribute that electricity back to our customers.

We opened our first landfill generating station in September 2001, at the Horry County Landfill. It produces 3 megawatts, enough electricity to power 1,500 homes. Rather than rest on our early accomplishments, we have steadily built the program at a pace that works for our communities and, most importantly, our customers.

When we bring our Berkeley station online later this year, it will bring our total landfill generation to 25 MWs, enough to power 12,500 homes or nearly one in 10 of the residential customers we serve directly. The best news is that we are marketing this nationally certified, renewable Green Power to residents throughout South Carolina, who can purchase Green Power or, if they are customers of other utilities, Green Power Tags. All that money is fully reinvested in new renewable energy projects in South Carolina.

At $3 per 100 kilowatt-hours, the cost to purchase renewable Green Power is minimal. Our point is to offer customers the voluntary opportunity to support the development of renewable energy. A very small percent of customers are participating, and there is a lesson in that as we move forward.

While the landfill generation we are producing is a little more expensive than traditional generation, it is the most affordable renewable resource available today in South Carolina. As we continue to grow this program and look increasingly at different renewable options, we will remain ever mindful that the benefits of any type of renewable generation must be balanced with the cost and reliability issues. As a voluntary purchase, Green Power is popular among a very, very small percent of our customer base. We will continue to balance their support against the need of other customers for electricity that they can afford.

Lonnie N. Carter
President and Chief Executive Officer

santee cooper®

FSC
Mixed Sources
Product group from well-managed forests and other controlled sources
Cert no. SW-COC-003080
www.fsc.org
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council

Mollie Gore — Editor

Jim Huff — Photo Editor/Photographer

Willard Strong — Senior Writer

Phil Fail — Writer

Kevin F. Langston — Writer

Tom Galmarini — Designer

Chris Cooper — Intern

Fall 2010— Vol. 10, No. 4

PowerSource is published by Santee Cooper Corporate Communications. Use of materials is not authorized without permission of the editor.

Address all correspondence to:

Corporate Communications,

Santee Cooper

One Riverwood Drive

Moncks Corner, SC 29461-2901

Phone: (843) 761-7093

e-mail: mollie.gore@santeecooper.com

IN THIS ISSUE

FALL two thousand 10

24 Ghosts of Santee Cooper Country

By Kevin F. Langston

Photo illustrations by Jim Huff

Ready when you are

by Phil Fail
photos by Jim Huff

"I'm thirsty Daddy." It's 3:13 a.m., and this is your wakeup call.

Groggily slinging legs bedside, you shimmy sleepy feet into comfortable slippers, grasp your 4-year-old's hand and lead her off to the bathroom.

The nightlight's glow is comforting and warm yet isn't up to illuminating the task at hand, so you reach for the switch, right where it's always been. The compact fluorescent light bulb overhead comes to life and gradually brightens to full power. "Beats flash-blindness-inducing 100 watt bulbs of old," you think to yourself, reaching for a clean Dixie cup.

A short burst of water from the tap and it's nearly "mission accomplished." You carefully hand down the cup. She quickly drinks it. "More?" you ask, eyebrows raised. She sleepily shakes her head no, yawns a big yawn and stretches her hands above her head as if to fly into your arms. Instinctively you scoop her up, flick off the light switch and head down the hall to tuck her in.

At Santee Cooper, providing South Carolina with electricity and other essential services is an around-the-clock operation, all day, every day. Good weather, bad weather, even on Christmas, making and delivering electricity is a real-time proposition. It is consumed at the same instant it's generated. So at any given moment across South Carolina, Santee Cooper's electricity is generated, transmitted and delivered from the turbine to the overhead light fixture in your bathroom, even at 3:13 a.m. That means that at every tic of the second hand, there has to be an adequate supply of electricity in the system.

It's a daunting job and we've been up to the task for over 75 years.

5:29 turns to 5:30 a.m., the alarm clock blares loudly. A flailing outstretched arm desperately seeks the snooze button, silencing it with a well-placed slap.

A gentle voice from the other side of the bed urges, "You make the coffee, I'll wake the kids."

You signal agreement with a begrudging grunt, throw off the covers and shimmy into your slippers. The kitchen is dim, as the sun is an hour from making its appearance. You reach for the light switch, right where you left it, spill the dregs of yesterday's pot down the drain and toss the grinds in the basket for the compost pile. Then you marvel at how the combination of fresh grounds, clean water and electricity can create such a splendid start to the day. The coffee maker steams, gurgles and fills the pot with its black morning gold.

Elsewhere, pattering tiny feet make off to the bathroom, reminding you to plug a couple of frozen waffles into the toaster. You retrieve them from the freezer along with a bagel for

your wife, shove them in the slots, push down the handle and steal the first cup of coffee from the pot even before it's done. Leaning against the counter, you startle slightly as the warm waffles jack-in-the-box out of the toaster.

Moments later you realize the wonder of a hot shower as the steam works its waking magic and the hot water header does its job.

As we rise, so does the demand for electricity as our appliances spring to life after sitting still overnight. In the brain of Santee Cooper's system, the Energy Control Center (ECC), a group of system controllers working this high-tech, high-security operation, anticipated morning was coming and made plans well in advance to meet that increased demand. These dedicated individuals work 12-hour shifts directing and monitoring every aspect of the generation and transmission of electricity. Using skills that seem to some like a marriage of ESP and alchemy, the system controllers bring generation resources online and off to follow the demand for electricity. Their time-tested decisions are based on the weather forecast, an abundance of historical data, planning, system knowledge and a great deal of experience. If your electricity comes from Santee Cooper, a South Carolina electric cooperative, the city of Georgetown or Bamberg, or if you work at the Charleston Air Force Base or any of the 30 industries we serve, this is where your power is ordered and shipped in real time…

where supply meets demand at the speed of light.

As you drive toward work, the lights lining the street flutter off, doused by the sun steadily working its light over the horizon. Warmly lit windows make you wonder how similar each neighbor's start to the day must be. You wave to the retired gent on the corner as he blows the remnants of last night's storm off his walkway. He pulls the bright orange extension cord above his head, he waves with orange cable crossing his palm, all the while rhythmically swinging the blower from side to side, dispatching downed twigs and leaves into the grass. Yellow. Red. You wait at the light. Glancing around you notice hazards flashing, a power crew picking up the orange cones from behind their bucket truck and walking toward the cab. You hadn't noticed a power blip and hope everything's okay. Green. You go on your way. The storefronts lining the road are alive, pumps fueling, OPEN lights sequentially flashing their status, frosty frappuccinos and steamy cappuccinos thrust through drive-through windows into ready hands. You imagine the cacophony of cell phones as you pass office workers walking into nearby buildings, hand to ear.

For Santee Cooper customers in Berkeley, Georgetown and Horry counties, there is a second command post, the Distribution Control Center (DCC). Like the ECC it is a high-tech, highly secure nerve center, staffed round the clock. While ECC focuses

on ensuring there is adequate electricity in the system routed through the appropriate transmission corridors, the focus in the DCC is the localized distribution of power to substations, transformers and the overhead and underground lines that carry power into your neighborhoods, and businesses. At its helm are the distribution controllers, sentries of the last mile who make sure the way is clear. When a limb downs a line during a storm or a pole-top raccoon blows a breaker, they take the calls, analyze the data, pinpoint the problem, route around the break to minimize those affected and dispatch a line crew to make the repair. They also watch over the daily operations of the system, carefully checking and rechecking that power is routed around line workers and substation crews performing maintenance on the system. They are dedicated to safety, and the protection of their cohorts in the field is paramount.

The jaunt from your car to the office is pleasant enough. The morning's temperature is more civil now, October having a calm that August can't. Absent is the constant background drone of heat pumps straining against the hot, replaced by the lazy scraping of leaves blowing across the parking lot. "Thump" you fist the auto-open button for the doors. Silently they swing towards you opening up the office. You step lively to your desk, occasionally greeting your colleagues while overhead, carefully concealed tubes light your every step.

Sitting, you plug in your laptop and join the network. As it dances thru its logon screens, you reach for the desk lamp and pull the cord. It flits to life as you contemplate your second cup of coffee.

It all starts at the generating station, where the electricity is made. Santee Cooper has five major generating stations, at Cross, Grainger, Jefferies, Rainey and Winyah, and smaller "peakers" in Hilton Head, Saluda and Myrtle Beach. Throw in our Green Power stations at Anderson, Horry, Lee, Richland, Georgetown and soon Berkeley County landfills, hydroelectric power from Buzzard Roost, Santee Spillway, St. Stephen and via contract with the Southeastern Power Administration, and one-third of the V.C. Summer Nuclear station, and you have our generation profile. With the exception of the Summer Nuclear, these stations are "lit and quit" at the request of the system controllers in ECC. The order in which they are called up is a bit of a ballet, balancing their output, cost of operation, location in relation to demand, fitness for duty and a host of other factors. Summer Station is a base load plant, a "Steady Eddie" generating nearly the same output all the time and only coming down for refueling every 18 months or so. It's a foundation on which all the other generation can build. Cross, Grainger, and Winyah are coal-fired plants with unit outputs ranging from 85 to 620 MWs and they also can provide base load power. Jefferies generates electricity from variety of sources including coal, hydroelectric, oil and even woodchips. Rainey station uses natural gas in combustion turbines, basically great jet engines attached to generators. The hot exhaust from a pair of these is used to make steam and drive another turbine generator in a combined cycle unit.

These all do the work of making electricity. Electricity to light homes and cook meals, turn bauxite into aluminum and scrap into new steel, to light roads and charge phones. It's electricity that makes our world work and that's the work of all 1,850 employees at Santee Cooper, be they in the direct path of the power, or supporting those who are.

Meanwhile, back in the bathroom, the nightlight twinkles to off, signaled by the sun shining through the window. For now, it rests and awaits the dimming of the day, so it can settle back into its vigil, steadily lighting the night. PS

City of Georgetown's electric department:

powering the port city since 1921

by Willard Strong
photos by Jim Huff

A landmark at the corner of Georgetown's Screven and Front streets is the clock tower building, a Greek Revival structure built around 1845. Once used as the town hall, the building houses the Rice Museum, open since May 1970. Underground power lines along Front Street enhance the aesthetics of downtown, where shops, boutiques and restaurants contribute to a considerable street appeal.

For nearly nine decades, the City of Georgetown Electric Utility has provided the citizens of South Carolina's third oldest city with the power to light homes and businesses.

Georgetown's electric department is one of 21 formed and operated by towns and cities across South Carolina. These municipally owned electric utilities are often called "munis" for short.

Even as long ago as the late 19th century, when the possibilities of Thomas Alva Edison's glowing, tungsten-filament wonder encapsulated in a glass orb captured the world's imagination, progressive town leaders statewide began forming munis. The city of Greenwood began the Palmetto State's parade of public power, all the way back in 1896. The cities of Orangeburg and Union followed suit two years later. The dawn of a new century, with its soon-to-be realized wonder of powered flight and now-perfected telephone systems, vaulted overwhelmingly rural South Carolina into a more modern age. The city of Camden formed the state's last muni just after World War II, in 1947.

In 1921, Georgetown joined the ranks of places where electricity was provided from a central source. Spearheading the progressivism that would eventually bring alternating current to the town was Mayor William Doyle Morgan (1853-1938), a New York City-born son of Irish immigrants. When he was a toddler, Morgan's family relocated to Georgetown where his uncle, Arthur, was a successful merchant and ship owner.

Morgan immersed himself in business and civic life and by all accounts, was one of Georgetown's most beloved public servants. The front of his former residence at 732 Prince Street features a historical marker that called Morgan:

Above: Working on underground boring equipment off U.S. Highway 17 are (from left) Patrick Sports, Patrick Staggers and Harry Johnson.

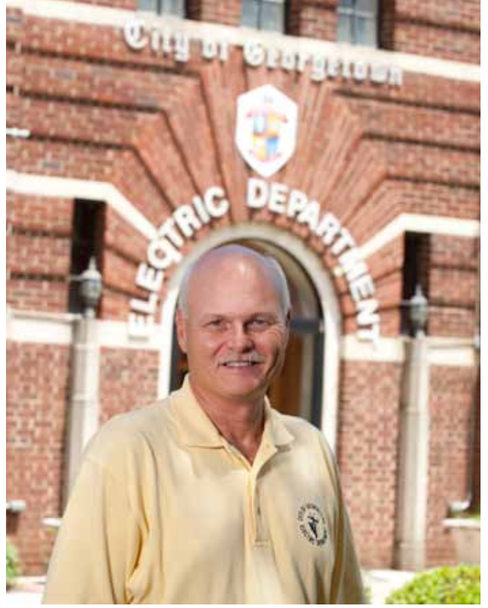
Leon Bellamy installs protective hoses so that work can be performed safely near energized lines.

"…the catalyst for much of Georgetown's growth and prosperity by the turn of the century. He helped give the city what one observer called 'the snap and vim of 20th century progress,' such as a modern water and sewer system, electric lights, macadamized streets, sidewalks, a deepened harbor, and jetties in Winyah Bay."

Taken for granted now, such amenities drew people from the country and into town, accelerating population growth and putting more money into circulation—and showed the world what a progressive place Georgetown had become.

Although Georgetown originally had other sources for its electricity, it turned to Santee Cooper to purchase its power about 50 years ago. Santee Cooper is proud to continue as the source of power for the Georgetown Electric Utility.

Alan J. Loveless presides over the system that today serves approximately 3,800 residential customers and about 1,200 commercial accounts.



"Our primary focus is to provide safe and reliable electric service to the town at the lowest possible cost," says Loveless, a native of Chattanooga, Tenn., who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Tennessee. "We try to provide everything that our employees need to do the job safely. Safety is very important to our department, and we put a great deal of emphasis on it."

His work force of 18 is down about four employees because of a city hiring freeze so common nowadays. Despite challenges faced by departments of all municipal governments, Loveless says he enjoys the level of flexibility afforded by his bosses, the mayor and town council, for allowing him to not only maintain a system, but to improve it.

The Georgetown system includes two substations and six distribution feeders, and reliable service is augmented by line trucks and bucket trucks. It also features a new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition, or SCADA, system to efficiently manage the flow of power.

"City council has been very supportive of our electric department and I appreciate that," says Loveless. "We recently upgraded both our substations with vaccuum reclosers and electronic controls."

Tree trimming is a major responsibility for a muni, and Georgetown takes its responsibility seriously.

"We have four people in our tree crew," Loveless says. "But every five years we'll bring in a contracting crew. We try to sweep the city with rights-of-way clearance."

Tree trimming can turn emotional with customers in a heartbeat. But power outages caused by high winds from typical summertime afternoon and evening thunderstorms, prevalent in the South, puts pressure on tree-trimming practices. Good practices can pay big dividends for a coastal community such as Georgetown that is vulnerable to tropical storms and hurricanes.

Above, left: Alan J. Loveless heads up Georgetown's electric utility, headquartered at 800 Church St. The building was formerly a National Guard armory.

Butch Britt attaches an elbow to a section of underground conduit.

Tom Williams is the department's service superintendent and Harry Johnson is the line crew supervisor. Meter readers Travis Coleman, James Cribb and Leonard Leak report to Meter Reader Supervisor Mal Greene. Teressa Todd and Rhonda Sims keep things running smoothly in the office.

The headquarters occupies the town's old National Guard armory location, at 800 Church St., a very busy thoroughfare feeding traffic from U.S. highways 17, 17A and 701. The armory, built in the 1940s, is a carbon copy of old armories in nearby Andrews and Kingstree. Where there once was a drill floor and basketball court, there are now rows and stacks of electrical components and spare parts required to keep the lights on, part of the utility's annual budget of about $15 million.

The power itself comes from not far away. Just outside Georgetown is Santee Cooper's Winyah Generating Station that provides 2,055 megawatts to the grid, enough electricity to power about a million average-sized homes in South Carolina. It is the town's primary source of power.

"It's fairly well understood that the city's power comes from the Winyah plant," says Loveless. With about 200 jobs, Winyah Station is also a major employer to an area hard hit by the hiatus of the local steel mill. "We really need new industry here that will keep people in Georgetown," Loveless says. "That, in turn, would improve the overall quality of life for all our citizens."

That is a priority with city and county leaders and Santee Cooper's own economic development personnel, including the SC Power Team, comprised of Santee Cooper and the state's electric cooperatives. Santee Electric Cooperative provides Santee Cooper-generated power just outside the city limits and in many areas of rural Georgetown County.

Travis Coleman checks the inventory of electric meters.

Santee Cooper-generated power energizes the Georgetown substation.

Uncovering an underground duct bank under Front Street are (from left) Leon Bellamy, Harry Johnson, Shane Ard, Patrick Staggers and Patrick Sports.

An Aug. 31 announcement that a manufacturer of hydraulic cylinders and power units for elevators will locate a new $1 million facility nearby was welcome news. I.I.I. Hydralik is expected to create 30 new jobs.

Loveless serves on the board of directors of the South Carolina Association of Municipal Power Systems, based in Columbia. The 21-member organization includes the Bamberg Board of Public Works, the municipally owned utility in Bamberg that also has Santee Cooper as its source of power. As a director, Loveless is keenly interested in issues of importance to munis across the state and those that impact his own.

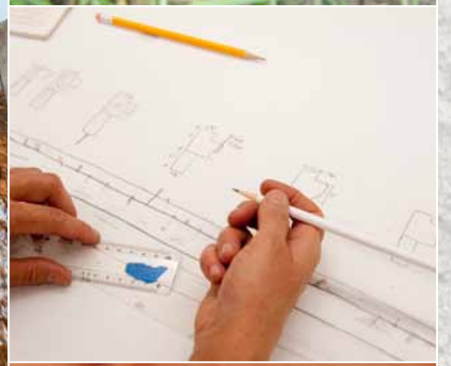
Excitement around town has picked up as Hollywood set up shop in town in late summer, giving the city an economic shot in the arm. Filming for a Barry Levinson-directed movie with two working titles, "The Bay" and "Isopod," started on Sept. 13.

The Georgetown Times stated "the film's plot is a biological disaster that is unleashed on the Fourth of July 2010 … An isopod parasite, carrying untreatable, mutated diseases, jumps from fish to human host and replaces them with itself. Seven years later, the true horror and scope of the event, captured mainly on home videos by the town's now long-dead victims, is revealed to the public for the first time."

A festival scene on the Intracoastal Waterway and a festival scene around Front Street were part of the movie, set in the Chesapeake Bay area. Filming was projected to continue through mid-October, with the actors and crew bolstering the economy by eating in Georgetown restaurants, renting private homes and hotel rooms and paying about 100 extras to appear in the local scenes.

"I'm glad we decided to film here," location manager David Thornsberry said in the Times account. "It's worked out nicely for us."

"The movie was a big deal," says Loveless, noting the buzz of excitement it brought to the town of about 8,500 residents. Looking ahead, he said, "we are counting on many more positive things for our city." PS



DIGGING IN THE DIRT

BY WILLARD STRONG

PHOTOS BY JIM HUFF

Mike Harrington, a landowner in rural Florence County, points to a field on his 400-acre property and says, "Right over there, it's literally covered in Indian pottery. It's all around here."

A stroll to the spot affirms Harrington's assertion. One has to be careful not to step on fragments, clearly pottery from a different culture and people who populated the Pee Dee region of South Carolina during the Woodland Period, about 800 years ago.

Some landowners in Harrington's position may find these remnants of another eon curiosities, collecting them or in a lot of cases, plowing them under to plant crops or develop a site for a building. Harrington, in fact, is a Myrtle Beach developer with a keen interest in learning about what lies on the surface and below. He has made an important connection with Coastal Carolina University, where exciting things are happening in the fields of archaeology and anthropology.

Clockwise from left:
Spiral-bound notebooks help the archaeologists and anthropologists record their work.

Dr. Cheryl Ward (left), director of Coastal Carolina's Center for Archaeology and Anthropology, looks for artifacts as Dr. Carolyn Dillian shovels soil at the Harrington Farm in Florence County. Dr. Sharon Moses records their findings.

Stacks of multicolored bowls that are critical to a dig await eager students intent on discovery.

On this hot August morning, three internationally renowned experts in their fields have been drawn to Harrington's property to dig and discover. They're academics who like to get out in the field and get dirty, and they are characters in an emerging story of CCU's commitment to furthering study that has so many possibilities in this section of the state.

Nearly two years ago, Dr. Cheryl Anne Ward, who holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from Texas A&M University, left Florida State University to become director of the Center for Archaeology and Anthropology at CCU. An associate professor of history and maritime archaeologist, she considers her move from Tallahassee to Conway one of those once-in-a-lifetime, ground-floor opportunities.

"Coastal's essentially a new institution," says Ward, who earned her undergraduate degree from Texas Tech. "The opportunity to build this program, it's an opportunity you rarely get in academia. Here, I have much more of a voice of how the program is structured and there's no university in the country opening an anthropology and archaeology department these days. That's what attracted me into coming from Florida State. We have an unprecedented opportunity here."

It hasn't taken Ward long to begin building an outstanding team. This year she has lured from Princeton University Dr. Carolyn Dillian, an archaeologist who is specializing in local heritage and prehistory. Dr. Sharon Moses, a cultural anthropologist and ethnoarchaeologist with a doctorate from Cornell University, also came on board this year.

Ward has particular praise for Joseph C. Carter of Myrtle Beach, a member of the CCU Board of Trustees who has taken a personal interest in fostering the work that Ward and others have begun.

"The university as a whole has been so supportive," Ward says. "But I do think Joe Carter is the key. He's been a steady and definitive voice to keep archaeology alive at Coastal Carolina. What's interesting is that Coastal had archaeology classes as long as 30 years ago."

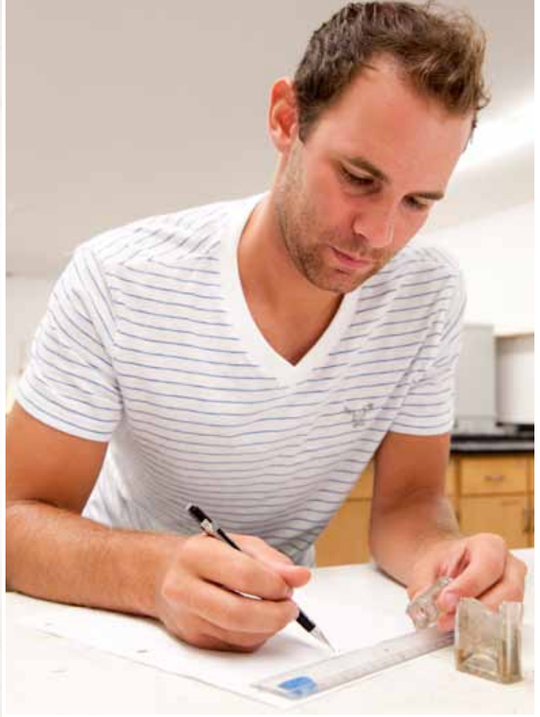
This piece of pottery used by early settlers features an ornate pattern.

"I'm completely impressed with the commitment of resources at Coastal," says Dillian, a native of the Pennsylvania Dutch country who also chairs the history department. "The resources these students have are on par with the country's top programs.

No one has ever said, 'No, you can't do that.'"

Dillian continues, "I specifically chose Coastal because they were creating this program and I could have a voice in it and have active and ongoing research.

Recording their discoveries are (from left) Dr. Carolyn Dillian, an archaeologist who specializes in local heritage and prehistory, decided to leave Princeton University earlier this year to join the faculty at Coastal Carolina University, and Dr. Sharon Moses. A cultural anthropologist and ethnoarchaeologist, Moses holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University.



Clockwise from left:
A recent dig adjacent the Waccamaw River in Conway yielded this evidence of the tar, pitch and resin from pine trees that was used to waterproof ships.

Chris McHugh, a junior at Coastal Carolina University majoring in marine science, says he's interested in concentrating on marine archaeology.

A projectile point fashioned by American Indians was often used to hunt game.

We want to maintain local and international research." Internationally, Dillian has worked in Kenya and will continue to maintain that tie.

Emboldened with the concept of interdisciplinary research, the department has set out in the field, visiting a prehistoric site near Aynor and last June, another site in Conway. The Conway site was adjacent the Waccamaw River between the railroad tracts and Kingston Presbyterian Church. They were looking for 19th century evidence of the local shipbuilding industry that included naval stores, which is tar, pitch and resin from pine trees, ingredients used to waterproof ships. At that time Conway was called Conwayborough.

Students discovered lumps of resin, pieces of brick and mortar, pieces of pottery and glass, handmade nails, and a tool made from bone, among other artifacts. It was this "archeological field school" that this summer introduced seven students to applied archaeology by digging test pits and doing what was termed "modest excavation," and then writing a scholarly report.

Walter Hill, director of the Horry County Museum, provided Ward with an 1880 photograph showing where the shipyard was located. Ward presented a report on the dig to Conway City Council, an example of how she is reaching out to a community and region that has unlimited possibilities to advance CCU's work.

Another example of routine outreach occurred in September. Moses gave a public

Dr. Cheryl Ward examines boards recovered from a dig in Conway where shipbuilding occurred.

lecture to the Waccamaw Chapter of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina. The subject was a 9,000-year-old settlement in Catalhoyuk, Turkey. It's a location where Moses has worked seven times and a place "in which people buried their family members beneath the floors and beds inside their houses," according to a flyer promoting the event.

It's that community connection that will surely keep Ward, Dillian and Moses in good stead with the locals. The department has visited the Yauhannah site overlooking the Great Pee Dee River, part of the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge.

"We're still looking for the 1715 trading post," Ward says. "We worked on an elevated area there. What the students found was a house that had burned down. Included in the artifacts were broken dolls and marbles."

While it's easy to form a stereotype of an archaeologist because of the popular "Indiana Jones" movies starring Harrison Ford, Ward believes such pop culture icons can and do inspire. In reality, this field of study and exploration is more often than not hot, hard and often backbreaking work in remote locations. But there is a higher purpose at work.

"One of the most common misconceptions is that our goal is to collect neat things, that we are very object-oriented," says Ward.

"But archaeology gets students to ask questions about their own lives, what can be learned about and what they'll be leaving behind. Our biological and cultural links are what makes us who we are."

Meghan Mumford, one of the students working on the site over the summer, says Ward easily imparts the serious academic work as something that appeals to an undergraduate. "Dr. Ward makes it interesting and fun. There's so much to learn."

Chris McHugh, a junior marine science major, looks forward to learning more about marine archaeology, all the way back to ancient Egyptian sailing ships. That happens to be Ward's passion.

American Indian pottery often featured simple artistic expression, such as this example.

Dr. Carolyn Dillian shows an old nail that was discovered on a recent dig.

Meghan Mumford, a Coastal Carolina University senior, says she has been inspired by Dr. Cheryl Ward because "she makes learning interesting and fun."

In fact, it was a sunken Colonial-era ship raised from the Black River near Georgetown in 1976 that put the Palmetto State on her archeological radar screen. Just mentioning the Brown's Ferry Vessel, as it's known, gets her excited about what has been discovered in South Carolina. Built around 1715, it sank near Brown's Ferry with a load of bricks between 1730 and 1740. It's on display at the Georgetown Rice Museum, a must-see stop for her students.

"It's one of the most important shipwreck discoveries ever in North America," Ward proclaims of the ship built from yellow pine, cypress and live oak. "It used European and non-European techniques." The Brown's Ferry Vessel also established primary evidence for American shipbuilding, nearly a half-century earlier than previously thought.

The Topper Site, in Allendale County near the Savannah River, is a more recent example of how South Carolina is challenging long-held archeological scholarship on early human habitation in the Americas. SCETV has chronicled the controversial findings from the last six years. It's another indication that Ward is where she needs to be at this stage of her career. And what is her vision for the department five years from now?

"I'd like to have a biological anthropologist on board, have a stand-alone department with a major in anthropology with an outstanding record of placing students in outstanding graduate programs that satisfy their interests," Ward says without hesitation. It's passion like hers that will provide years and decades of digging in the dirt for many young archaeologists still to come through the CCU program. PS

Ghosts of Santee Cooper Country

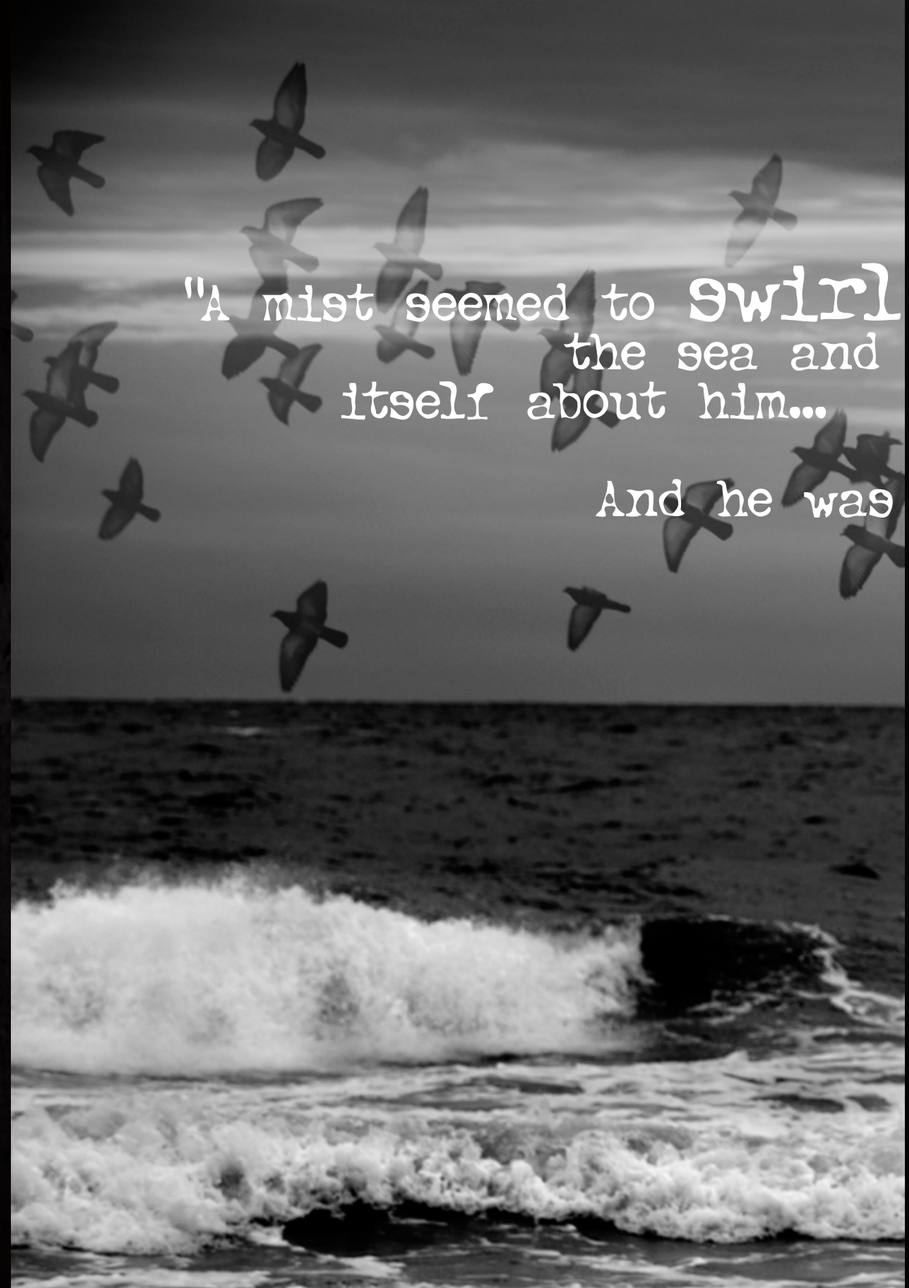
By Kevin F. Langston

Photo illustrations by Jim Huff

It seems as if every corner of South Carolina is populated by stories of ghosts, spirits and haints, with some of the most well known originating from Santee Cooper's direct-serve territory of Berkeley, Georgetown and Horry counties.

Arthur Herbert "Doc" Lachicotte Jr. has spent the majority of his 84 years living in the Waccamaw Neck between Georgetown and Murrells Inlet, and his family is well regarded throughout the Pawleys Island community. His uncle is credited with fashioning the first rope hammock that would make Pawleys Island famous, and his father started the Hammock Shops in 1938.

In the years before the Civil War, Lachicotte says, the Waccamaw Neck was one of the wealthiest areas in the U.S. because of its rice cultivation. "Half the rice grown in America at that time was grown in Georgetown County," he says. "There were a lot of plantations and a lot of slaves and a lot of storytelling."



His favorite legends from the area include the Gray Man and Alice Flagg.

In her 1962 book "Ghosts of the Carolinas," Nancy Roberts wrote, "He has strolled the strand at Pawleys Island since 1822. And when the Gray Man walks, danger is close at hand."

The legend varies depending on the teller, but Roberts' account is of a young suitor on

his way to visit his fiancée who was thrown from his horse and landed helplessly in quicksand. In her grief, the fiancée walked aimlessly along the shore until one day she came upon a strange man dressed in gray who was looking out over the water. As she got closer, she realized this stranger was, in fact, her dead lover.

"Then a mist seemed to swirl up from the sea and wrap itself about him," Roberts writes. "And he was gone."

That night the girl dreamt she was at sea during a violent storm and could see her dead fiancée beckoning her from the dunes. She was so shaken by the dream that her family took her to a physician in Charleston. While they were away, a hurricane struck Pawleys Island and claimed most of the inhabitants of the North Inlet. Her vision of the Gray Man had spared her family.

Although the legend's origin differs, the idea that the Gray Man foretells impending doom is universally common. So, too, is the notion that no harm comes to those who see him. Roberts writes that in the days leading up to Hurricane Hazel's landfall in 1954, the Gray Man visited Bill Collins, an automobile dealer from Georgetown whose family owned a home at Pawleys Island.

Collins and his family evacuated the island before Hazel struck. When they returned, they were shocked to find their house unharmed. Homes around them had been washed away, yet some towels they had left hanging to dry on their porch were still there.

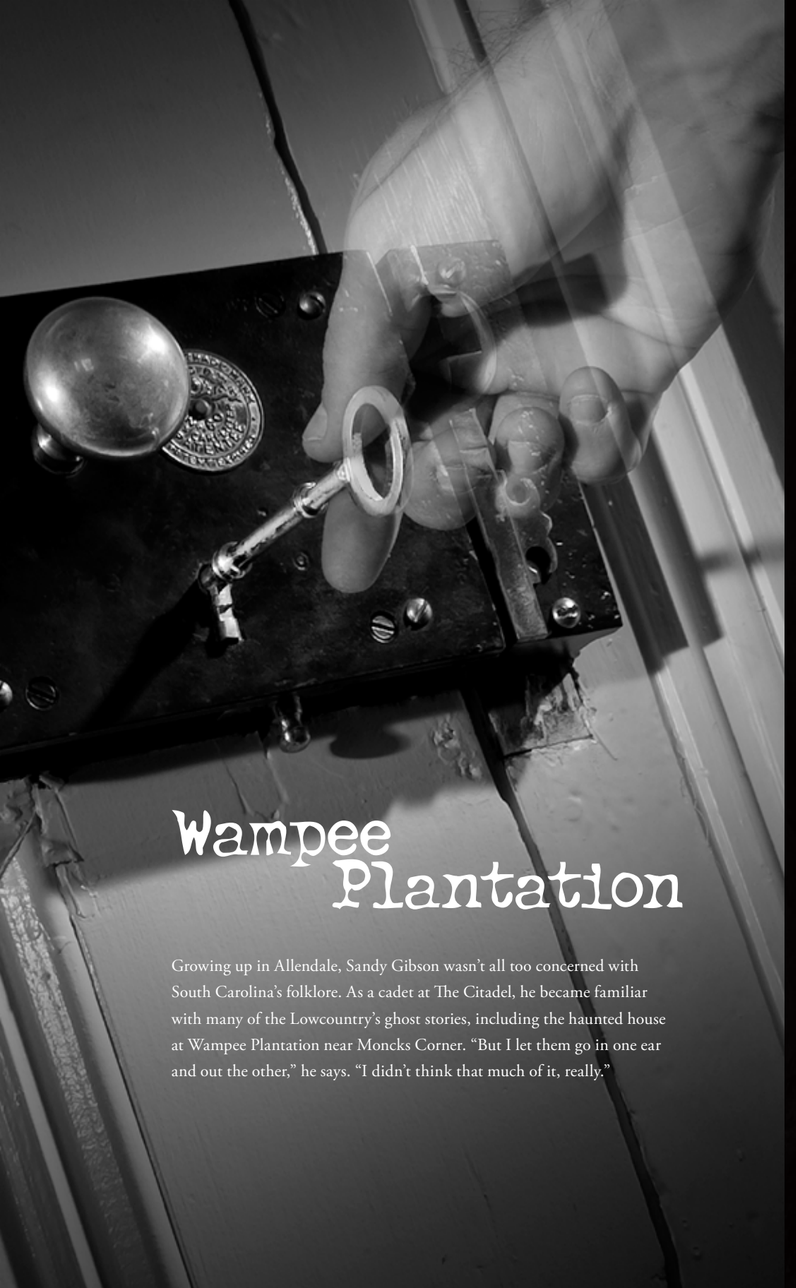
The tragedy of Alice Flagg is an equally famous legend. In her 1983 book, "South Carolina Ghosts: From the Coast to the Mountains," Roberts writes about the 16-year-old Alice, a young debutante who was happily, albeit secretly, engaged.

Not long after her debut at the spring ball in Charleston, where she was attending private school, Alice's family in Murrells Inlet received word that she had become seriously ill. By the time Alice returned home to The Hermitage, she was in a bad state and had become careless about hiding the engagement ring she wore on a ribbon around her neck.

"When her brother saw it, he was furious," writes Roberts. "He angrily snatched it from her neck, took it out of the house and threw it in a stream. The girl's thin, white fingers that had often grasped the ring for comfort during her illness could find it no more."

Alice spent her final days agonizing over her missing ring, and it is said her ghost still wanders The Hermitage in search of it, as well as the cemetery of All Saints Church near Litchfield Plantation, where she is buried.

Her grave marker simply bears the name "Alice" and is encircled by a ring of worn turf. Legend has it she will appear if you walk backwards around her grave 13 times. It's also said that girls who run around the grave nine times with their eyes closed will find that their own ring has vanished.



Wampee Plantation

Growing up in Allendale, Sandy Gibson wasn't all too concerned with South Carolina's folklore. As a cadet at The Citadel, he became familiar with many of the Lowcountry's ghost stories, including the haunted house at Wampee Plantation near Moncks Corner. "But I let them go in one ear and out the other," he says. "I didn't think that much of it, really."

Located in Pinopolis on the shore of Lake Moultrie, that property is now home to the Wampee Conference Center, and Gibson has been its caretaker for the past 25 years. Wampee Plantation once produced rice and indigo, but nowadays ghost stories are a primary export.

Over the years, Gibson has heard innumerable stories from guests who've stayed at the Wampee House, the 1822 home that provides lodging for conference attendees. He might have dismissed these as farcical flights of fancy had he not been personally introduced to the Wampee ghost.

"I guess I had been here about five years before I experienced anything. I was upstairs turning the lights off and felt somebody behind me. No question, someone was there," Gibson says. Around this time, Gibson says he heard his dog Moultrie downstairs take off out the back door.

"Dogs have an intuition," he says, "and after that night, Moultrie never wanted to go in that house. He'd get near it, but that was it."

In November 2009, the Ghost Hunters of Charleston conducted the first-ever paranormal investigation of the Wampee House. "The room became very active very quickly," co-founder Gene Newhouse told The Berkeley Independent. "We found the presence of two distinct entities."

Perhaps the most famous victim of the Wampee ghost is Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Terry Bradshaw. Sometime in the late 1980s, Bradshaw was a guest at the Wampee House while he and former Detroit Lions center Steve Mott were shooting a promotional film about the Santee Cooper Lakes. The night before they were supposed to leave, Gibson says he got a call from Bradshaw.

"Bradshaw said, 'Sandy, Steve Mott is scared.'"

Gibson had been telling the pair about the Wampee ghost and figured he'd set a fright into Mott. Once he got over there, though, he could tell Mott had been spooked by something.

"This guy was about 6-foot 5 and 320 pounds, and he was shaking like a leaf. So, I told Steve he could sleep in the cottage across from the Wampee House. Then I look over to Terry, and he's packing his bags, too. I told him, 'Terry, you can stay right here. You don't have to move.' and he said, 'I'm not staying in this house by myself!' So, at 10 o'clock at night I'm moving two NFL players, one with four Super Bowl rings, out of the Wampee House."

Much of the house's activity occurs in an upstairs bedroom known as the "ghost room." Gibson says a portrait of a young girl who resembled the daughter of William Cain, a former owner of the plantation, usually hangs in that room.

"People will oftentimes move the picture from room to room, because they don't want to sleep with it in their room," he says. "They say her eyes follow you around."

Keith Yates might not be a Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback, but he is among the long list of would-be Wampee House guests who were too frightened to spend the night there. Yates is the science chair at Berkeley High School and was attending Santee Cooper's annual Energy Educators Institute at Wampee some years ago when had a run in with the ghost.

"When I got there that first day, I picked a bedroom and put my stuff in there, no problem," he says. "I got back to my room in the Wampee House that afternoon and could tell something had changed. It was eerie. Whatever is said to be in that house was in the house. I could feel it, so I gathered my stuff and got out of there as fast as I could."

Over the years, Yates says he's encountered several ghosts, including one who hitched a ride in the back of his truck. He also believes he and his brother brought a ghost into their house when they purchased a haunted pool table.

As a science teacher, Yates says he gets a lot of funny looks when he tells people he believes in ghosts. "But when you've seen a few that you can't explain away, only one conclusion seems plausible," he says.

Gibson says ghost stories are just a natural byproduct of the South. "I think it's a Southern thing," he says. "All the big plantations have their own stories."

Yates credits South Carolina's long, and oftentimes bloody, history for its abundance of ghost stories. "This place has a fairly violent history with the American Revolution and the Civil War being fought in these parts," he says. "As a scientist I wonder if Einstein was right and space and time are on a continuum, and these are people living at the same time we are but in another place or dimension. Some people flat-out don't believe in ghosts. But when you see one, you'll change your mind." PS

newSource 2010 FALL

by Chris Cooper

Thanks a million

In July, Chicora Association Management committed to distribute 40,000 compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs to its property owners along the Grand Strand. That commitment by a Santee Cooper commercial customer officially put the utility over the 1-million mark in CFL bulbs distributed as Santee Cooper continues to educate customers about the bulbs' efficiency.

Those 1 million CFLs will save 40 million kilowatt-hours of electricity a year, enough to power about 3,000 households.

To celebrate the milestone, Santee Cooper teamed with Chicora to put on a "flash mob." Dozens of dancers took to the pooldeck at Chicora's Beach Colony Resort and performed the Electric Slide to a crowd of unsuspecting vacationers. The event drew widespread media coverage, and it continues to promote energy efficiency through a video on Santee Cooper's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/santeecoopergreen.

Photo by Willard Strong

Carter chairs APPA

Santee Cooper President and CEO Lonnie Carter assumed chairmanship of the American Public Power Association (APPA) during its national conference in Orlando in June.

APPA is the service organization for the nation's more than 2,000 community-owned electric utilities that serve more than 45 million Americans. Its purpose is to advance the public policy interests of its members and their consumers, and provide member services to ensure adequate, reliable electricity at a reasonable price with the proper protection of the environment.

Carter plans to use his time as 2010-2011 chairman to raise awareness and educate members on the cost uncertainties of potential regulatory changes in the electric industry. "We are in an era of unprecedented change and challenge," said Carter. "A wave of relentless regulatory and legislative changes at every level – generation, transmission, and distribution – is bringing this uncertainty and with it, higher costs to customers."

On Aug. 25 and following Carter's installment as chair, APPA President and CEO Mark Crisson paid a visit to Santee Cooper's headquarters in Moncks Corner and the Cross Generating Station in Pineville.

"I've been very impressed with the professionalism of the people I've met. They're a very dedicated group of folks," Crisson said. "Lonnie's a tremendous leader who I've enjoyed working with in the past and look forward to working with as our board chairman."

Bond sale held

The Santee Cooper Board of Directors approved the sale of $234,861,000 in revenue obligation bonds on June 25.

Specifically, the issue constitutes taxable floating rate notes, tied to London Inter-Bank Offered Rates. The notes mature July 15, 2011.

The issue drew the highest ratings possible from rating agencies on the short-term notes: an F1+ from Fitch Ratings, an SP-1+ from Standard & Poor's, and an MIG 1 from Moody's Investment Service. All three agencies reaffirmed strong long-term ratings for Santee Cooper as well.

Energy Educators Institute: 25 years strong

More than 80 educators from across the state participated in 2010's Energy Educators Institute, a graduate level course Santee Cooper has offered teachers for 25 years now. Through the Institute, teachers learn about the production of electricity and the opportunities and challenges of renewable energy, and they receive planning materials to take those lessons back to their classrooms.

"I have gained a new understanding of the process that goes into producing energy and a new appreciation for Santee Cooper's efforts to conserve power," said Alan Ingram, a math teacher at West Ashley High School and participant in the 2010 Institute.

"The Energy Educators Institute provides engaging standards-based lesson plans in an environment that promotes networking and problem-solving with fellow educators," said Barbara Allen, Santee Cooper's director of educational programs.

Reduce The Use turns 1

Santee Cooper celebrated the one-year anniversary of launching its "Reduce the Use South Carolina" energy efficiency campaign in September. The goal of this 10-year-long campaign is to substantially reduce the use of electricity and improve energy efficiency among the utility's residential and commercial customers through rebates and programs.

In the first year of the comprehensive program, Santee Cooper customers have made changes to save 49.4 million kilowatt hours of electricity, enough energy to power 3,700 households for one month. They've done this through participation in seven Reduce the Use initiatives Santee Cooper launched in that first year, including refrigerator rebate initiatives for residential and commercial customers, compact fluorescent light distribution programs for residential and commercial customers, a Smart Energy New Homes ENERGY STAR® initiative for homebuilders ($1,600 rebate), a Smart Energy New Homes initiative for homebuilders ($1,000 rebate), and a Smart Energy Existing Homes initiative for residential customers ($600 rebate).

More information is available at www.reducetheuse.com PS

www.ReduceTheUse.com